

These minutes include a correction made by the committee during the approval process which was not reflected in these minutes when they were originally posted on the web. The correction is on page 1 and is underlined and in bold: “psychiatrists” replaces “psychologists.”

## **Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee**

**Thursday, December 2, 2004**

Vice-Chair Griffin called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**Present:** Supervisors Joe Griffin (Vice-Chair), Andy Kallin, Jim Jeskewitz, Bill Kramer, Hank Carlson, and Sandy Wolff. **Absent:** Duane Stamsta.

**Also Present:** Chief of Staff Lee Esler, Clinical Services Manager Mike DeMares, Senior Financial Analyst Andy Thelke, Administrative Services Manager Russ Kutz, Health & Human Services Director Peter Schuler, Public Health Manager Nancy Healy-Haney, Senior Financial Analyst Clara Daniels, Children & Family Services Manager Jesus Mireles, Senior Services Director Cathy Bellovary, and Senior Services Analyst Barbara Woyak.

### **Approve Minutes of 10-26 & 10-28**

**MOTION:** Kramer moved, second by Jeskewitz to approve the minutes of October 26. Motion carried 5-0.

**MOTION:** Kramer moved, second by Jeskewitz to approve the minutes of October 28. Griffin asked that an amendment be made. Motion carried 5-0 as amended.

Wolff arrived at 1:04 p.m.

### **Schedule Next Meeting Dates**

The next meeting is scheduled for December 16 and it will be combined with the Health & Human Services Board. Carlson said he would not be able to attend that meeting.

### **Chair's Executive Committee Report of 10-15**

In Chair Stamsta's absence, Esler reported on the following items discussed at the last Executive Committee meeting.

- UW-Extension advised of their intent to apply for nutrition grant funds through the Environmental Protection Association.
- Discussed the grant review process for standing committees. Committee minutes should reflect that the intent to apply for grant funds was acknowledged and discussed by the committee. No votes should be taken.
- Legislative Policy Advisor Dave Krahn gave an update on state legislature activities.

### **2004 Mental Health Center Staffing Update**

Schuler said they will be requesting contingency funds (\$140,000) to cover cost overruns at the Mental Health Center due to medical leaves, payouts for retirements, contract nursing, etc. This request will be considered by the Finance Committee at their next meeting. DeMares said this was an unusual year, mostly of unforeseen circumstances. Two top **psychiatrists** left the department – one passed away and the other retired – both of which resulted in large vacation and/or retirement payouts. Four nurses were out on medical leave for extended periods of time

throughout the year and had to be replaced with expensive contracted nursing staff. A number of psych techs were also out on medical leave. A total of 526 shifts had to be replaced this year.

Esler asked if the yearly trend in levy increases for the Mental Health Center is expected to continue. Schuler said he doesn't anticipate this but not all can be foreseen when putting together the budget. He added that the Center has saved the County money by keeping many of these individuals out of more costly programs.

**Ordinance 159-O-086: Appropriate State of Wisconsin Funding in the Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services Budget**

Kutz discussed this ordinance which involves appropriating an additional \$98,498 in state funding for the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information Systems (SACWIS), \$69,741 in additional State Child Day Care Administration funding, and an additional \$11,397 in State Economic Assistance Regional Trainer funding for a total of \$179,636 for various personnel expenses.

MOTION: Kramer moved, second by Kallin to approve ordinance 159-O-086. Motion carried 6-0.

**Ordinance 159-O-087: Appropriate Additional State of Wisconsin Division of Public Health Women, Infant and Children Nutrition Program Funding to the Department of Health and Human Services – Public Health Division 2004 Budget**

Healy-Haney said they've seen increased enrollments in the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Program, from 2,120 per month to 2,249 per month. As a result, the state has appropriated an additional \$15,036 to cover increased personnel and operating expenditures.

MOTION: Kallin moved, second by Wolff to approve ordinance 159-O-087. Motion carried 6-0.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Budget Status Report for the Public Health Division**

Schuler distributed copies of the 2004 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter general fund status report for the Public Health Division. Kutz said at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2004, expenditures were at \$2,125,281 which is about \$224,000 higher than this same time period in 2003. Much of this was for personnel expenses and Kutz discussed this in detail. It's estimated that expenditures at year-end will be below budget. Revenues at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter were \$704,000 which is about \$50,000 higher than this same time period in 2003. Kutz explained that much of this is due to additional grant revenues.

**Pertussis and Influenza Status Updates**

Healy-Haney distributed information on this issue including confirmed and probable Pertussis cases by municipality, age group, etc. She indicated there have been a total of 421 confirmed and probable cases of Pertussis in Waukesha County in 2004. She believes this will be the largest outbreak in the history of Wisconsin. Her biggest concern was with children under 12 months of age, 4% of the Pertussis cases, because the mortality rate is greater. If they find a Pertussis case had stemmed from a daycare center, they will address the situation and make sure all contacts have been notified, followed-up, and are on antibiotics. The highest percentage of Pertussis cases was in the 10 to 14 year-old age group with 31% of the cases, followed by 15 to

19 year-olds with 18%, and 5 to 9 year-olds with 10%. Typically, those communities with smaller populations are more at risk for exposure to others. Older individuals are at risk for the disease attacking their lungs and becoming secondary pneumonia. So far, Pertussis has had a very low mortality rate across the country. Healy-Haney said she and her staff have been very busy working on this issue which includes home and daycare visits, and that this receives increased attention by the State and the Center for Disease Control. Kramer asked are the current vaccines ineffective? Healy-Haney said there has always been a question of whether the current vaccines wane over a ten-year period, and it's definitely looking that way now. She added that a new vaccine is currently under development for the 10 year old population. Carlson asked what are the symptoms of Pertussis? Healy-Haney said Pertussis is a respiratory illness where the lungs are under attack with coughs similar to whooping cough. Even after the organism is killed, a nagging cough can last for more than 3 months, seriously affecting quality of life.

Healy-Haney went on to give an update on influenza. Currently, there are only 8 cases of flu vaccines which is well below the baseline. The flu usually starts in December and peaks in January and February. All the division's flu clinics were held. While they ordered the customary allotment, about 4,700 cases, they received only half the shipment. However, they were able to cover a large number of the at-risk population with those vaccines. All health departments participated in conducting an inventory of nursing homes, CBRF's, etc. to determine what their status was with flu vaccines. As it turned out, larger, private providers had about 40,000 surplus flu vaccines on-hand which public health divisions/departments were able to take advantage of, basically at normal purchase price. There are currently 7,000 vaccines remaining which is good. Healy-Haney said the flu season hasn't gotten off to an early start like in other years which is also good news. However, they are following one woman up north who officials believe may have contacted avian influenza while in China.

#### **Discuss County Participation in the National Children's Study**

Schuler and Mireles were present to discuss this issue. Waukesha County was chosen as a vanguard (pilot) location – one of eight in the country. Esler said all the counties selected for the study were done randomly. Schuler said we're still being informed on this issue, still in the implementation stage, and more information will follow. Esler said a teleconference call will be hosted by the National Children's Study Program Office on December 15 at 1:00 p.m. CST to learn more about the study. Kallin had funding concerns, the study's effect on County staff, and possible civil liberty violations of study participants. Schuler did not think this would have much of an impact on his department but it will be important to learn more.

Esler said this 25-year study is the largest of its kind ever undertaken, it's voluntary, and it will be taken on by the federal government with federal staff, not County staff. Minimally, they may want an advisory committee to work with the various hospitals, public services agencies, and private sector entities in the counties being surveyed. Esler said to the best of his knowledge, this is initially being funded with \$12 million for 2005. In 2006, the vanguard counties will be funded at about \$70 million to pay for federal staff, medical personnel, etc. He believes they will be doing some worthwhile scientific studies to track some of these health issues that are increasing in this country and somewhat going unexplained such as autism and others which may have environmental causes.

**Report on Resource Center Discussions and Decisions**

Schuler and Bellovary were present to discuss this issue. Schuler distributed copies of a letter from County Executive Dan Finley's office, signed by Schuler and Bellovary, to Susan Abbey, RFP Manager at the State Department of Health & Family Services. While the County supports the concept of a County Resource Center, staff decided not to submit an Intent to Submit a Proposal at this time. The reasons, outlined in the letter, include a lack of adequate information systems, lack of turnaround time to respond to the RFP, the uncertainty of future state funding, the mandate that Mental Health and AODA be included within three years, and the creation of an additional layer of organization.

MOTION: Kramer moved, second by Jeskewitz to adjourn at 3:41 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Recorded by Mary Pedersen, Legislative Associate.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew J. Kallin  
Secretary